



# EASTERN IOWA DX'ER



FALL 1993

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

HAMFEST CALENDAR IS GETTING  
VERY SHORT -- IS THAT A SIGN  
THAT WINTER IS COMING ??

OCTOBER 30, 1993

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA  
CONVENTION CENTER

NOVEMBER 20, 1993

PARK RAPIDS, MINN.  
LEGION HALL

1993 EIDXA OFFICERS  
President: KEØY, Tom Kramer  
V.P.: KØAL, Al Culbert  
Sec'y/Treas: WAØFYG,  
Rick Hadley

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:  
KØAL, Al Culbert

REPEATER COMMITTEE:  
KØVM, Al Groff  
WØMJN, Joe Finkstein

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  
WØSR, Jim Spencer  
WØIZ, Dale Repp

CLUSTER SYSOP:  
WB8ZRL, Tom Vavra

EIDXA REPEATER  
145.190 Mhz, WØMJN

DX CLUSTER:  
144.910 Mhz, WB8ZRL

NET:  
SUNDAY EVE @ 9:30 pm LOCAL  
EIDXA REPEATER

## EIDXA MEETING

FALL 1993 MEETING INFO

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 1993

TIME: 7:00 PM  
(room available for  
socializing after 6:00  
PM)

WHERE: ROOM 303  
BENSON HALL  
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
CEDAR RAPIDS

PROGRAM: PC Software  
programs for hams

**\*\*NOTE\*\***  
President Tom is expecting  
members who have experience  
with a particular software to  
bring same and share their  
experiences with the rest of  
us.

Also we have the little matter  
of an election that must be  
held to select officers for the  
1994 year.

HELLLLP.....  
I NEED MATERIAL FOR  
FUTURE BULLETINS

de KØAL

## **TOP 10 LIST**

**The top 10 reasons why a kenwood 950 is better than your wife**

- 1. It doesn't complain if you spend too much time away from it.**
- 2. It does not have a mother-in-law.**
- 3. It can be replaced if it refuses to work.**
- 4. Sits quietly when not in use.**
- 5. It never has a headache.**
- 6. It costs less to operate.**
- 7. It comes with a warranty.**
- 8. You can use your kenwood as a night light.**
- 9. No troublesome break in period.**
- 10 It is easier to turn on at night.....**



## PACKETCLUSTER

A very handy concept that the PC (here it means PacketCluster, not personal computer, or Politically Correct) is that of COMMANDS. From a user viewpoint I think the term Data Base might be better. These COMMANDS are really locally installed databases. The databases on my PC node range from the GOLIST to ZONES. A SHOW/COMMANDS gives you a list of the commands to use to access these databases. Using QSL as an example, lets explore its use.

A SH/QSL with no further information will give you a short list of info on how to use QSL. It will tell you to enter SHOW/QSL call where 'call' is the callsign of the DX station you are seeking QSL a route for. QSL is a rather complex database, in that it searches the GOLIST, and then a local database (QSLNEW) which local users may (and are encouraged to) update. Any found information is displayed. If no information is found, the GOLIST archive (QSLOLD) is searched. Most other COMMANDS are not this complicated. Some are handy operating aids, such as ZONE. When I hear a UA9S on 40 and I'm looking for zone 18, a SH/ZONE UA9 will tell me where UA9S is. Or you can SH/ZONE 18 to check the UA9S.

A new database I've recently acquired (by the way, there are lots of these available on the W6GO BBS) is DEALER. Again a SH/DEALER will get you started. Note what this first screen tells you, and go exploring from there.

SHOW/HAM is slightly different. G3WJN purchased HAMCALL and installed it on his node. SH/HAM call will give you a 'callbook' type address for 'call'. It includes some DX addresses as well as stateside. For a list of DX countries included, TYPE/FILES HAMCALL. (This brings up another comment: If your terminal supports it, this is a good example of a file to capture when you download it, so that you have 'instant' access to it later when you need to look up a new DX address.) Next time you see G3WJN, thank Rich for providing this service.

Some databases are dynamic, changing periodically. These I download from W6GO every month or two. Since there is some expense here (phone bills, and time) if these databases are not used, I will delete them. If enough interest is expressed, I can make available a list of other databases that I currently don't have online, and perhaps I can be convinced to obtain these. Some of the databases I maintain myself because updates are not available. If you find that they need updating, please send me a message with the information.

On a different note, the contest season will be starting soon. During the contest weekends of the 'biggies' some thought needs to go into how the PC is used. I have never turned off features like MAIL, TALK, ANNOUNCE, SH/QSL, etc., but some nodes do. Some users (on other nodes of course) don't think too clearly and load up the frequency doing non-contest related things. Remember that we have had 2800 alerts in a single contest weekend in the past. The use of SET/FILTER can really help cut down the traffic locally. The SSB only operator doesn't need to see those 2000+ CW alerts in the CQWW and a simple SET/FILTER/CW/BAND=(ALL) ALL will filter out ALL cw alerts. Likewise the contester can filter out all the SSB alerts, and can limit the bands to only those he wishes to see. Don't forget to reset after the contest is over.

It will soon be time for all the nuts to come out of their holes. I refer to Halloween, when the PC goes nuts with alerts for GHOST, WITCH, etc. So far no-one on this side of the Mississippi has lowered themselves to this level, and I trust that it will remain so this year too.

IN ADDITION TO US AND VE ADDRESS INFORMATION, HAMCALL NOW INCLUDES ADDRESS INFORMATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DX COUNTRIES:

3B8	MAURITIUS	J5	GUINEA BISSAU
3D2	FIJI	J7	DOMINICA
3DA0	SWAZILAND	J8	ST VINCENT
4S	SRI LANKA	JT	MONGOLIA
5B	CYPRUS	JW	SVALBARD
5H	TANZANIA	LA, LB, LJ	NORWAY
5V	TOGO	LX	LUXEMBOURG
5Z	KENYA	OH	FINLAND
7P	LESOTHO	ON	BELGIUM
7Q	MALAWI	OY	FAROE IS
8R	GUYANA	PJ2, 9	NETHERLAND ANTILLES
9H	MALTA	PJ7, 8	ST MAARTEN
9J	ZAMBIA	PP, PR, PS, PT	BRAZIL
9N	NEPAL	PU, PV, PW, PY	"
9Y	TRINIDAD	PZ	SURINAM
A2	BOTSWANA	T30	WEST KIRIBATI
A4	OMAN	T7	SAN MARINO
A7	QATAR	TA	TURKEY
A9	BAHREIN	TK	CORSICA
AP, AR	PAKISTAN	TL	CENTRAL AFRICAN REP
C2	NAURU	TN	CONGO
C3	ANDORRA	TR	GABON
C6	BAHAMAS	V2	ANTIGUA
C9	MOZAMBIQUE	V3	BELIZE
CE, XQ	CHILE	V4	ST-KITTS
CS, CT, CU	PORTUGAL	V6	FED STATES OF MICRONESIA
EA, EB, EC	SPAIN	V8	BRUNEI
EI, EJ	IRELAND	VE, VO, VY	CANADA
H4	SOLOMON IS	XE, XF	MEXICO
HA, HG	HUNGARY	YB, YC, YD, YE	INDONESIA
HB0	LICHTENSTEIN	YF, YG, YH	"
HC	ECUADOR	YS	EL SALVADOR
HJ, HK	COLUMBIA	ZP	PARAGUAY
HL	KOREA		
HP	PANAMA		
HR	HONDURAS		
HV	VATICAN CITY		



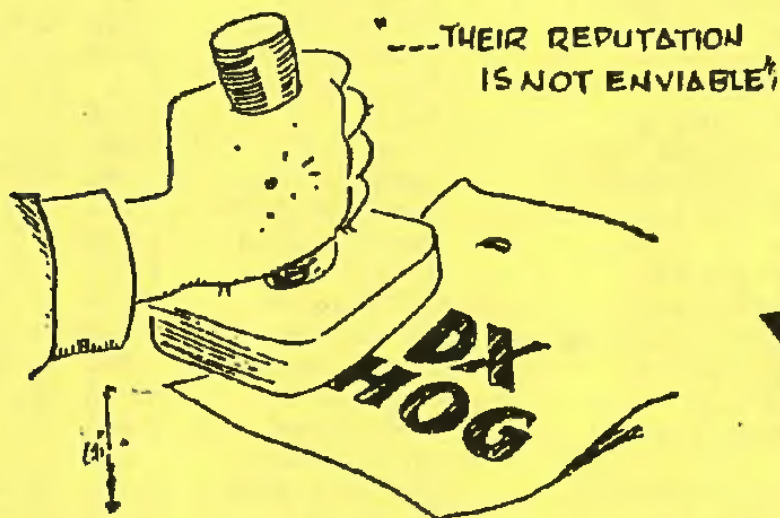
# EIDXA ROSTER

KUØA	Nelson	MOYER	28 Ealing Drive	Iowa City	IOWA 52246
KØ AL	Al	CULBERT	328 Norman Dr NE	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52402
WØØAWL	Terry	CELLMAN	703 Lincoln Street	Ainsworth	IOWA 52201
WØØB	Larry	NEWBY	P.O. Box 185	W. Burlington	IOWA 52655
KZØC	Jim	BOHNSACK	1169 Rainbow Drive	Waterloo	IOWA 50701
KBØCFD	Lloyd	THORNBURG	RR #1 Box 28	Packwood	IOWA 52580
KAØCNN	Thomas	KUENY	2025 Cardinal Ln NE	North Liberty	IOWA 52317
AAØCS	Jeff	BARKER	P.O. Box 325	Toledo	IOWA 52342
KAØCWR	Mary	DENNIS	400 East Vine	Toledo	IOWA 52342
WVØD	Terry	PERKINS	3119 Falson Dr NE	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52402
KØ DAS	Rod J.	BLOCKSOME	690 East View Drive	Robins	IOWA 52328
NØ DGE	Tom	IRWIN	1023 Kirkwood Ave.	Iowa City	IOWA 52240
WØ EJ	Wade	WALSTROM	7431 Macon Dr NE	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52402
NØ EL	Joe	RATKIEWICZ	2622 Avalon Drive	Bettendorf	IOWA 52722
NMØF	Wayne	KINNARD	219 Park Lane	East Dubuque	ILL 61025
WAØFYG	Rick	HADLEY	115 Scenic Drive	Vinton	IOWA 52349
AAØGG	Frank	WEIGELT	4055 Stewart Rd NE	Iowa City	IOWA 52240
KCØGM	Carol	COOPER	912 W 16th Street	Cedar Falls	IOWA 50613
KØ GT	Gary	TOOMSEN	2730 Tower Drive	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52401
KØ GVB	Gary	ERNST	RR #2	West Branch	IOWA 52358
WØ GWK	Frank	APPLE	1935 16th Street	Marion	IOWA 52302
KFØH	Jim	HARVEY	819 Main Street	Goldfield	IOWA 50542
NBØH	Jack	MUCKLER	2084 Eastern Blvd SE	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52403
WKØI	Terry	PARKER	535 Sierra Drive	Burlington	IOWA 52601
NØ ICI	Grant	KESSELRING	RR #7 Box 160	Ottumwa	IOWA 52501
KØ IIR	Clark	PANTEL	1610 Hersey Ave.	Muscatine	IOWA 52761
KØ INR	Tom	TAYLOR	RR #1	Shell Rock	IOWA 50670
WØ IZ	Dale	REPP	1618 Texas Ave. N.E.	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52402
NØ JCM	John	MAYER	500 37th Ave. N.	Clinton	IOWA 52732
KØ JGH	Glen	KESSELRING	RR #7 Box 160	Ottumwa	IOWA 52501
NNØL	Ron	BORKGREN	1106 E 2nd Street	Anamosa	IOWA 52205
ABØM	Vern	LANG	110 E 2nd Street	Muscatine	IOWA 52761
WEØM	Tom	GORDON	6904 Brentwood Dr NE	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52402
WØ MJN	Joe	FINKSTEIN	2210 Empire Street	Marion	IOWA 52302
KEØMO	Tom	REDLINGER	RR #1 Box 146	Keota	IOWA 52248
NKØN	Orville	DUEKER	226 Southcrest	Waterloo	IOWA 52702
WØ NB	Jim	LIVENGOOD	RR #1 Feere's Ln	Burlington	IOWA 52601
W4 NIM	Bob	HILL	2037 SW 61st Ave.	Miami	FLA 33155
NØ NQA	Frank	DUECKER	RR #1 Box 202	Lisbon	IOWA 52253
NCØO	Tom	HISE	P.O. Box 104	Shellsburg	IOWA 52332
N9 OK	Al	BROENDEL	2712 38th Street	Rock Island	ILL 61201
K8 OM	Joe	HUNGATE	700 33rd Ave.	Marion	IOWA 52302
NUØP	Steve	WHITE	5820 Sanden Rd. N.E.	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52401
WØ PPF	George	CARSNER	411 Terrace Road	Iowa City	IOWA 52245
KCØQ	Jeff	RUSSELL	2125 Linmar Drive NE	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52402
WWØQ	Rich	BINGHAM	707 12th Ave.	Coralville	IOWA 52241
KKØR	Bob	TILLMAN	P.O. Box 1	Eldora	IOWA 50627
N4 RR	Roger	HOFFMAN	17215 Tiomber Drive	Sterling	ILL 61081
KDØRT	Brad	FARELL	1401 Greenwood Drive	Ottumwa	IOWA 52501
KØ RW	John	LENAHAN	923 N 9th Street	Burlington	IOWA 52601
NØ SM	Steve	MILLER	Rte 6 Box 180	Ottumwa	IOWA 52501
WØ SML	Doug	BYAL	2323 Springbrook Drive	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52402
WØ SR	Jim	SPENCER	3712 Tanager Drive NE	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52402
WA3TIH	John	SIMANDER	P.O. Box 763	Muscatine	IOWA 52761
KKØU	Paul	FEDDERSEN	703 Eclipse Lane	Clinton	IOWA 52732
WEØU	George	GRUENTHER	1106 S. Leebrick	Burlington	IOWA 52601
WRØU	Scott	AUGSBURGER	310 S. Wilson Street	Mt. Pleasant	IOWA 52641
WØ UZ	John	NELSON	3109 Terry Dr. S.E.	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52403
NYØV	Tom	VINSON	10211 Hall Road N.E.	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52402
KØ VM	Al	GROFF	1446 Council Street NE	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52402



# EIDXA ROSTER Con't.

KØ VZR	Tom	WHITE	2027 Carter Ave.	Jesup	IOWA 50648
G3 WJN	Richard	BENNETT	1906 Valley Vista Drive	Bettendorf	IOWA 52722
W0 WP	Tom	LINDGREN	9786 Blairs Ferry Road	Cedar Rapids	IOWA 52401
KEØY	Tom	KRAMER	905 Leroy	Muscatine	IOWA 52761
KUØY	James	SEREDA	915 Hayes Street	Burlington	IOWA 52601
KFØZ	Jan	CLUTE	320 College Blvd.	Mount Vernon	IOWA 52314
WBØZKG	Chuck	DENNIS	400 E. Vine	Toledo	IOWA 52342
WB8ZRL	Tom	VAVRA	682 Palisades Access Rd	Ely	IOWA 52227



ANYBODY

YOU KNOW ?

YOU ARE PROBABLY NOT AN OLD TIMER IF:

..You don't remember Hashafisti Scratchi

..When you hear the word "windom", you think of a small town in southwestern Minnesota

..You think a breadboard is only used for serving unsliced loaves of bread

..38 LaSalle Road means nothing to you

..You never coveted a "Class A" license

..You never joked about somebody having one of those "canine" callsigns

..You can't remember when Iowans were in the Ninth call district

..You only think a "gooney bird" is a feathered creature living on Pacific Ocean islands

..You don't know what RME stood for

..Your first rig was factory constructed and ready to operate

..You did not have to drive to Kansas City, Chicago or some other megapolis to take your license exam before an FCC examiner



## A LITTLE PIECE OF HISTORY TRIVIA FOR THE UNINFORMED !!

The true inventor of the telegraph key was one Alfred Vail, NOT Samuel F.B. Morse. Morse downplayed Vail's contributions to the American electromagnetic telegraph by referring to him as "my assistant", but he was much more than that. Morse had given Vail a share in the invention, and Vail was therefore a partner with Morse. And, unlike Morse, Vail had a keen grasp of things mechanical, and an inventive mind. Morse was an artist with an obsession.

Vail's contributions to Morse's dream (for that in reality, was all it was before Alfred Vail became involved) are best illustrated by looking at the device as it existed when Morse demonstrated it to a few people at the University of the City of New York. The date was September 4, 1837.

Morse's machine received the signals on a crude "picture frame" recorder; this used a pencil to inscribe the signals on a moving paper tape. His sending apparatus consisted of lead type, each representing a numeral, held in a "type-stick" or "type-rule". The type was moved against a circuit breaker by placing the rule on a hand cranked belt, called a "port-rule". This sending device, this "correspondent" as Morse called it, was crude and unwieldy, but Morse's rigid conception of his dream required the mechanical transmission of signals.

It is interesting to note that Morse's idea did not involve sending letters and words, but rather numerical code groups. An important part of his concept was a special decoding dictionary in which every possible word was represented by an assigned number. In October 1837, Morse actually completed such a dictionary. "You cannot conceive how much labor there has been..." he wrote Vail.

We will skip over the work and improvements made by Vail to the system between 1837 and early 1844 to reach a relevant point. During the installation of the well-known demonstration line between Baltimore and Washington in 1844, in order to test the fragile wires as they were strung, Morse manipulated one set of apparatus at the Capitol. Vail transported the other set along the route of the line.

Morse's mechanical correspondent (type-stick and port-rule) was anathema to Vail. To send his test signals, Vail dipped the wire into a cup of mercury, completing the circuit. It became obvious to Vail that the correspondent, so time-consuming to prepare for use, was unnecessary.

After the line was open to Baltimore, Vail constructed a "spring finger-key" by which signals could be formed by hand. It was nothing more than a strip of spring metal on a wood base: a crude strap key. Morse immediately quit work on an improved correspondent, and applied the term to Vail's invention.

Vail soon replaced his strap key with a better design that incorporated a lever pivoted on a shaft. This second design key was called a "lever correspondent". With its gap and contact adjustment screws, it resembled more modern telegraph keys.

Morse's correspondent, the type-stick and port-rule, was complex, cumbersome, and required setting up for each message. Vail's correspondent was simple and required no mechanical preparation before it could be used to send a message. Alfred Vail's inventive mind gave birth to the telegraph keys that we know today.

For those of you interested in telegraph key history and collecting, there is a small quarterly publication titled appropriately "The Vail Correspondent" published by Tom French, W1IMQ. It is from this publication that I plagiarized most of the above. Further information had been passed on to me by one Phillip VAIL Carroll who lives at Charles City and is a grand-grand nephew of Alfred Vail. The Speedwell Foundry at Morristown New Jersey was started by Alfred Vail and cast many of the parts used to construct early keys. The foundry is in existence yet today!! Anybody want to trade a Vibroplex for a "Speedwell"??

de K&AL

EIDXA Bulletin  
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